



*The Quest*

 *Eternity*

# Tomb Sculpture of Ancient China



March 31, 1988

The Cleveland  
Museum of Art

AUTHORITY ON ANCIENT CHINESE MORTUARY ART TO LECTURE ON CHINESE IMPERIAL  
TOMBS

February 10-

April 10, 1988

Robert L. Thorp, associate professor in the Department of Art and Archaeology at Washington University, St. Louis, will discuss the design, construction, and furnishings of Chinese imperial tombs of the Qin (221-207 B.C.) through Tang (A.D. 618-907) dynasties in a free public lecture at The Cleveland Museum of Art on Wednesday, April 13, 1988, at 5:45 pm. The title of his lecture, "Underground Palaces and Longevity Mounds," describes the elaborately furnished, multi-chambered tombs which were built below ground to recreate the earthly estates of deceased nobility and the enormous mounds of packed earth, some more than 100 feet high, which surmount and mark the imperial tombs. Dr. Thorp's lecture is the last in a series presented in conjunction with the current Museum exhibition, *Tomb Sculpture of Ancient China: The Quest for Eternity*, which closes Sunday, April 10.

Robert Thorp, a graduate of Columbia University, received his Ph.D. from the University of Kansas and taught at Princeton University before joining the faculty of Washington University in 1984. His doctoral dissertation, "The Mortuary Art and Architecture of Early Imperial China," was published in 1979. He has subsequently written a number of articles on this subject for scholarly publications. He contributed the essay, "Qin and Han Imperial Tombs and the Development of Mortuary Architecture," to the catalogue for the exhibition *Tomb Sculpture of Ancient China*, and an essay, "Burial Practices of Bronze Age China," to the catalogue for the exhibition *The Great Bronze Age of China*, which toured the United States in 1980 and 1981.

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